Western Theo. Seminary Jan 11th 1842.

Dear Brethren,

In accordance with your request, by the direction of Soc., I hasten to reply to your fraternal letter of Dec. 1st Your apology for the delay thereof was such we anticipated; and you no doubt will be gratified in knowing, that it arrived in time for our first regular meeting. We, dear Brethren, most heartily reciprocate the expression of your fraternal feelings, when you say that in none of your corresponding Socs do you feel a deeper interest than in our own.

And when we look forward a few years, and consider, that in the providence of God, we may be thrown into intimate relation to each other as the pastors of neighboring charges. that we will meet and mingle our sentiments and deliberations in the same Ecclesiastical judicatories — that we will coöperate in sustaining the same great schemes of Benevolence, we feel our hearts bound to you by peculiar Christian ties and sympathies; and we are especially desirous that the feelings of Christian esteem and fellowship may be greatly increased and that we may "provoke each other to love and good works".

We rejoice with you, Brethren, that all your revered and beloved Prof.s are yet continued unto you, and that the No. of Students is so great. May your Prof.s long be spared to be a blessing to that institution — to the candidates for the Holy ministry there assembling, and thro' them to the church and the whole world.

Having heard some indefinite accounts of the revival in and near Princeton, our hearts had rejoiced in the hope that God was about to baptize you with the Holy Ghost; and we waited in some considerable anxiety to hear from yourselves particularly what the Lord was doing for you. We must confess that our hearts sunk within us as we learned from your letter, that the very interesting state of religious feeling had considerably declined. And we trust and pray, Dear Brethren, that you will be stirred up to call mightily upon God, and with Jacob resolve that you will not let him go till he bless you. His promises are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. And in view of the increased prayer on the part of the church for the Candidates for the Sacred office, and the increase of their so, how vast the importance of the gracious out-pouring of the Spirit, and how great the Encouragement to seek for it.

You will permit us. Br. to felicitate ourselves on the completion of the Faculty of this Sem., by the election of Rev. Mr McGill. Prof. of Eccl. History & Church Gov. He has not yet entered upon the discharge of the duties of the professorship, having been prevented by sickness; but his arrival is expected now daily. And, Br. you will bear with us if, while we rejoice in the great, and continued prosperity and usefulness of the Eldest Theo. Sem. of the Pres. Ch. we set forth some of the claims and prospects of this Institution, which after various trials and difficulties is permitted to rejoice in the full organization of its Faculty.

In regard to the financial concern of this Sem. they are in a better condition now than they have ever been. Within a few years the churches have paid off a large part of the debt, and placed the Prof.s salaries on a some better foundation. Of the Faculty we cannot fitly express the warm feelings of our hearts; yet this much we may say, that tho' some of them are comparatively young men, yet they are men, who only need to be known to have the confidence and esteem of the churches.

And we feel confident that in a few years, from the geographical situation of the Sem. (it standing at the head of the great valley of the Mississippi, and thus western in all its habits and modes of thought) and from the fact that two of its Prof.s being western men by birth and education and the 3d prof. is thoro'ly westernized by long residence and extensive travelling in the West. and yet connected closely with the East by the grand thoroughfares of commercial intercourse, that this will be the place of the Theo. Education of not only a great portion of the students of the West, but of many of those from the East who expect to labor in the ~~most~~ West.

Yet notwithstanding this, the greatest obstacle now in the way of the increase of students is an impression that has gone abroad, and is industriously labored to be created by some, that the institution must go down. And from this wrong impression having been extensively circulated, as well as from a growing disposition on the part of Cand. for the Min. in the west. to study privately, and of pastors, and Presbyteries to encourage them, our No. is smaller than last winter session being only 14. And, Dear Br. it might justly be the subject of serious inqui ry by us, why Pastors & Presbyteries are disposed to encourage young men to study privately. Our impression is that it is because so many go out from our Seminaries that are Readers while there is a growing prejudice to reading in our Western Churches. As an indication of this we might mention a circumstance that came under the observation of one of the Clergymen of our City. A young Brother called on him returning from the West, & stated that he was returning to the East in despair of finding any church in the west that would receive him as a Reader

The Prof.s are very special in their inculcations to make us all speakers. We cannot speak of any special manifestation of reviving, but we have reason to bless the Lord for a very pleasant state of religious feeling and a readiness and desire to engage in labor for the good of others. There is nothing special in any of the churches of the cities, tho' there appears to be an increasing interest in their prayer meetings. Which we hope is a token for good. We rejoice, dear Br. in hearing that some of your no. have resolved (Deo volente) to devote themselves to the labors and trials of the Foreign field. May the Lord establish their resolutions encourage their hearts & open up the way before them. And may many more of your Soc. esteem it their privilege to go far hence to the gentiles. We cannot communicate anything especially interesting in regard to ourselves. The subject of miss. does not elicit that interest it should. Our meetings however are very interesting and profitable, and some are inquiring "Lord what wouldst thou have me to do?" and others are wishing for the blessed privilege of saying in answer to the macedonian call "here are we. Lord send us." But as yet none (except it is perhaps one) can see their way clear to resolve to go. There is a reason from our circumstances why so few from our no. feel it their duty and privilege to be For. Miss. We come from amidst the desolations of Zion, where many spend silent sabbaths, and have none to break unto them the bread of life, and therefore we feel more strongly the claims of the dom. field

But we have great reason to pray, that the Lord would give us more consecration of heart to the great work to which we look forward, and that he would richly endow us with the qualifications of his grace and Spirit. And this is especially true, when we consider the fewness of the Candidates for the Gos. min. Tis true "there is no restraint with the Lord to save by few or by many." and who can tell what will be the success of the feeblest instrumentality when "one shall chase a thousand and two shall

and its flight:" and when "a nation shall be born in a day". Yet the direction of
or is "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest" &c. And we would suggest Dear B
ould not make it a subject of special prayer in our private devotion
aying circles that the Lord would revive his work in our colleges during
ould observe the last thursday of Feb. the annual concert of prayer for Colleges
subject was generally brought before our churches by the pastors on the
Sabbath of Nov. in accordance with the recommendation of the Gen. Assembly and
here appears to be an awakening interest on the subject. The 1st Sab. of January was g
y observed except where some observed the first Monday. And the condition of
the Church and the world would appear to call for especially prayer on the part
of all who love Zion. The increased activity and insidiousness of the enemies of the church
not only in this land but in every land would appear to betoken the hastening
on of the day when the forces of Heaven and Hell shall be marshalled for the great con
flict between light and darkness truth and error. The "man of sin" by his fury the
secret missionaries in every part of the globe is every where spreading the know
ledge of his pernicious principles and confronting the advocates of truth and
ousness. Germany has lost much of the vitality of the principles of the Reformation
ationalism & Transcendentalism are leading multitudes down to perdition.
It is fearfully alarming the developements that are being made of the prog-
ress of Puseyism in England and this country. And Scotland that has ever been
in the front ranks in the battles of truth is again in contest with the ci-
vil powers for the cardinal doctrine that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only
ing and Head of the Church. Do any in the camp of the Lord grow faintharted
ile seeing the church assaulted with foes without and foes within? "On this rock
I found my church and the gates shall not prevail against it" "If the Lord be for
us who can be against us. And who would fear when the battle cry is "the sword
of the Lord and of Gideon"

18¾

To the Society of Inq. on Missions
of the Theological Seminary
Princeton New Jersey.

LEGHENY
JAN

Ans.d Nov. 19th 1842

Wherefore, Br. let us gird up the loins of our minds and quit us like men and put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand and having done all to stand — That we may endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ and that we not count our own lives dear unto us so that we may accomplish the ministry which we may receive of the Lord Jesus. Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied to you all thro' our Lord Jesus Christ. And that he may thoroughly furnish you unto every good work and work make you abundantly instrumental in promoting the cause of our Blessed Redeemer here on the earth and crown you with glory in Heaven are our daily and continued prayers in your behalf. Dear Brethren pray for us. Farewell. In behalf of the Soc. of Inq. on Miss. Yours in Christian esteem and affection

Andrew P. Happer Cor. Se

Please write soon. Our session will probably be continued till the 1st of May or June.